

Council Slaps 'Custer's Revenge' Game as 'Distasteful'

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Published: Wed, October 27, 1982 12:00 AM

The Oklahoma City Council unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday branding "Custer's Revenge" and other adult video games as "distasteful" and "not in the best interests of the community."

The resolution, sponsored by Ward 1 Councilman Bob McCoy, also said distribution of the games was "undesirable."

Phyllis Sapp, chairman of the Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission, told the City Council, "You are the first city government in the nation, I believe, to do something about this."

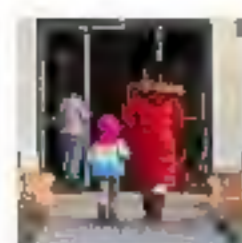
But the resolution does not ban sales of "Custer's Revenge" or any other adult video game.

"Custer's Revenge," a game cartridge designed for play on a home video unit, shows a near-naked Gen. George Custer coupling with a nude Indian woman.

"It's clear this game has no redeeming social value," the Rev. Jim Shields, executive minister of the United Church Ministries of Oklahoma City, said Tuesday. He gave the council a protest statement from the ministries' board of directors.

The video game is still targeted for national distribution to retailers by Nov. 1, Mrs. Sapp said. It has drawn local and nationwide protests from Indians, the Young Women's Christian Association and the Urban League.

The Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission will serve as the "umbrella organization" for groups protesting "Custer's Revenge," Mrs. Sapp said.



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"We implore you to continue with whatever legally you can do," Mrs. Sapp said.

But legal action may become a moot point as far as Oklahoma City is concerned, City Attorney Walter Powell said.

"I still have not seen a copy of the game cartridge and I have been advised by the manufacturer that they are in litigation with Atari and in light of that, they did not wish to distribute it, especially to us in Oklahoma City," Powell said.

Representatives of the game's manufacturer, American Multiple Industries of Northridge, Calif., originally told Powell they would send him a "Custer's Revenge" cartridge. Powell first called the manufacturer after the City Council directed him to research the legality of a sales ban at the Oct. 12 meeting.

"It's difficult to determine if something is pornographic if you haven't seen it," Powell said, noting that an obscenity ruling probably would be needed before the game could be banned.

Atari Inc., a leading manufacturer of home video equipment, filed suit against American Multiple Industries and its distributor, Mystique, on Oct. 15, two days after American Multiple officials held a press conference in New York announcing plans to market ~~75,000~~ copies of "Custer's Revenge" for Christmas sales.

"We were hoping that the City Council would not stop simply with this resolution," said Frances Wise, a member of the Native American Center, Inc. "We're concerned because native Americans, and especially our women, are the target of this game." BIOG: NAME:

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